

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens

Introduction

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ensures the rights of absent Uniformed Services voters and overseas voters to register to vote and cast absentee ballots for Federal offices. All citizens covered under UOCAVA have the right to a secret ballot through state law.

The UOCAVA is administered by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), operating within the Department of Defense. This agency currently provides services to over 6,000,000 voters, including over 3,000,000 overseas civilians; 1,400,000 military voters; 1,300,000 military dependents of voting age; and 100,000 federal civilian overseas employees.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) amended the UOCAVA by prohibiting states from refusing to process registration and/or absentee ballot requests from these voters because the form was received too early during the election year. HAVA also allows these voters to use one application to request ballots for two subsequent general elections.

The Help America Vote Act also amended the UOCAVA by mandating that no later than 90 days after the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, each State and unit of local government which administers elections must submit to the Election Assistance Commission the combined number of absentee ballots transmitted to uniformed and overseas voters, and the combined number of such ballots returned by such voters and cast in the election.

Definitions and Forms

Who is a military voter? A military voter is an individual serving away from his/her place of permanent residence who is also:

- A member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, or other uniformed service on active duty who, by reason of active duty, is absent from the place of residence where the member is otherwise qualified to vote.
- A member of the Merchant Marine who, by reason of service in the Merchant Marine, is absent from the place of residence where the member is otherwise qualified to vote.
- A member of any state National Guard deployed or on assignment outside of their state of residence.

OR

- A spouse or dependent of a military voter who, by reason of the active duty or service of the member, is absent from the place of residence where the spouse or dependent is otherwise qualified to vote.

Who is an overseas voter? An overseas voter is a person who resides outside the United States and is qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States or a person who resides outside the United States and, but for such residence, would be qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before the leaving the United States. Eligibility to vote and residency requirements are determined by each state.

What is the legal state of residence? The state where the voter last resided immediately prior to departure from the United States. This right extends to overseas citizens even though they may no longer own property or have other ties to their last state of residence, and their intent to return to that state may be uncertain. *NOTE: Currently 15 states allow eligible U.S. citizens who have never resided in the United States to register and vote where a parent would be eligible to vote.*

Below are some questions that may be helpful in determining a voter's legal state of residence:

- Where was the voter registered to vote?
- What state issued the voter a driver's license?
- Where is the voter's automobile registered?
- Where does the voter's family live?
- Where does the voter own property?

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) Standard Form 76. This is a postage-paid postcard for use by UOCAVA voters. The form is designed as a single postcard to serve most states both as an absentee voter registration application and an absentee ballot request.

An online version of this form is available at www.fvap.gov. Voters using the online FPCA must print the completed form, and affix postage to the mailing envelope. The form can be filled in on-line, printed, signed, dated, and placed in an envelope with the correct postage and mailed to the appropriate local election official. Other instructions are available on the FVAP's web site. See next page for a sample of the FPCA form.

Standard Form 76A (Rev. 10-2005)

Reset

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) Standard Form 186. This is an emergency “back-up” ballot available for citizens covered under the UOCAVA. It is used to only vote for Federal offices in general elections. It is valid only when all criteria for its use have been met, as follows:

- The citizen must be a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marines (or eligible family member), or a United States citizen overseas who is absent from their place of residence where he/she is otherwise qualified to vote,
- Apply for a regular ballot, using the FPCA early enough so that the local election official receives the request at least 30 days before the election or before the ballot request deadline established by the state, whichever is later.
- Not have received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state.

See next pages for samples from a FWAB form.

DRAFT

WARNING: Knowingly presenting false information in this application could result in criminal sanctions.

Standard Form 186A (Rev. 10-2005)

VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION - FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB)				
1.a. I AM (Mark only one): <input type="checkbox"/> A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT <input type="checkbox"/> A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY <input type="checkbox"/> A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY				
1.b. I ALSO REQUEST VOTER REGISTRATION (where permitted by state law) <input type="checkbox"/>				
2. MY INFORMATION (Required)				
a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle)			SUFFIX (Jr., Sr., III, etc.)	b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable)
c. SEX <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	d. RACE	e. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)	f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER — — — — —	
g. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER				
h. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)			i. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)	
j. EMAIL ADDRESS				
3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Required) (Military, use legal residence. Overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.)				
a. NUMBER AND STREET (Cannot be a P.O. Box)				
b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE		c. COUNTY	d. STATE	e. ZIP CODE — — — — —
4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS				
a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Where I live now) (Required)			b. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS (NOTE: Complete 4b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4a.)	
_____ _____ _____			_____ _____ _____	
5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections):				
6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive future ballots. See instructions. Consult your state pages of the Voting Assistance Guide for additional information requested.)				
7. AFFIRMATION: (Required) I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that: 1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and 2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and 3. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and 4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and 5. My application for a regular absentee ballot was mailed in time to be received by the local election official 30 days prior to this election, or the state deadline, whichever is later, and 6. I have not received the requested ballot, and 7. I understand that if my regular absentee ballot is received by the local election official in time to be counted, that ballot will be counted and this write-in ballot will be voided, and 8. I have voted and sealed this ballot in private and have not allowed any person to observe the marking of this ballot, except for those authorized to assist voters under state or Federal law and I have not been influenced, and 9. I am a Uniformed Services member, or dependent, who is absent from my voting jurisdiction, or I am an overseas citizen and have submitted this ballot from outside the U.S., or my state has made special provisions to allow me to mail this ballot inside the U.S., and 10. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and 11. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.				
Signed: _____		Date: _____		Signed: _____
(MM/DD/YYYY)		(MM/DD/YYYY)		Witness/Notary and Address (if required) _____ (MM/DD/YYYY)

The information contained herein is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.

Reset

OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT

PRESIDENTIAL VICE PRESIDENT

US SENATOR

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE/DELEGATE²³/RESIDENT COMMISSIONER²⁴

* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.

** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

ADDENDUM

Some states allow the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult your state section in the *Voting Assistance Guide* to determine your state's policy. If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices/candidates other than those listed above, please indicate in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.), and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.

OFFICE

CANDIDATE NAME or PARTY AFFILIATION

Standard Form 186A (Rev. 10-2005)

Reset

(Use reverse side for additional space)

Communication Techniques

Military and overseas voters face unique challenges in registering to vote, requesting and receiving their ballot, and returning their voted ballot. Communication is the key ingredient for ensuring that these voters are able to actively participate in the democratic process.

In 2005, the FPCA and the FWAB forms were updated to include an area for the voter to provide his/her email address. By collecting and storing these email addresses on each voter's record, you can quickly contact them to confirm their registration status and to ask the voter to acknowledge receipt of their absentee ballot. By establishing an email connection with your UOCAVA voters, the voter has a staff member and email address to get quick answers to their questions. *Tip: Consider sending out periodic news "updates" to all of your UOCAVA voters by using this email connection.*

Election officials can also find a postcard acknowledgment form on the FVAP's website (sample of the back cover of card is provided below). You can use this form to notify the voter that the FPCS has been received and accepted, or that more information is required to process the form, or that the FPCA has been denied.

YOUR FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND PROCESSED			YOUR FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND PROCESSED		
You will be sent an absentee ballot for Primary • General • Special • Run-off • Other election(s) approximately (date)			You will be sent an absentee ballot for Primary • General • Special • Run-off • Other election(s) approximately (date)		
Your application is incomplete or illegible.			Your application is incomplete or illegible.		
Block(s) is(are) incomplete or illegible.			Block(s) is(are) incomplete or illegible.		
Please provide:			Please provide:		
Please resubmit a completely new application.			Please resubmit a completely new application.		
Comments:			Comments:		
Email information to:			Email information to:		
Fax information to:			Fax information to:		
Mail information to return address on reverse side of this post card.			Mail information to return address on reverse side of this post card.		
Signature	Title/Jurisdiction	Date	Signature	Title/Jurisdiction	Date
Note to election official: This is a return post card for your use. Please mark and fill in applicable items. Write your return address and send to the citizen.			Note to election official: This is a return post card for your use. Please mark and fill in applicable items. Write your return address and send to the citizen.		

YOUR FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND PROCESSED			YOUR FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND PROCESSED		
You will be sent an absentee ballot for Primary • General • Special • Run-off • Other election(s) approximately (date)			You will be sent an absentee ballot for Primary • General • Special • Run-off • Other election(s) approximately (date)		
Your application is incomplete or illegible.			Your application is incomplete or illegible.		
Block(s) is(are) incomplete or illegible.			Block(s) is(are) incomplete or illegible.		
Please provide:			Please provide:		
Please resubmit a completely new application.			Please resubmit a completely new application.		
Comments:			Comments:		
Email information to:			Email information to:		
Fax information to:			Fax information to:		
Mail information to return address on reverse side of this post card.			Mail information to return address on reverse side of this post card.		
Signature	Title/Jurisdiction	Date	Signature	Title/Jurisdiction	Date
Note to election official: This is a return post card for your use. Please mark and fill in applicable items. Write your return address and send to the citizen.			Note to election official: This is a return post card for your use. Please mark and fill in applicable items. Write your return address and send to the citizen.		

If for some reason your office receives returned undeliverable UOCAVA absentee ballots, it is recommended that you take every step possible to obtain the correct mailing address for the voter.

- Utilize telephone, fax, or email contact information provided on the FPCA. *NOTE: Faxes to voters are toll-free to any location in the world by using the FVAP's Election Transmission Service, 1-800-368-8683.*
- Double check the mailing address on the return envelope and compare it to the address provided by the voter on the absentee ballot request.
- Contact a local family member of the voter.
- Verify the address through the FVAP's Department of Defense's database, by sending an email to vote@fvap.ncr.gov with the subject "Address Update". Be sure to include the name of the voter, date of birth, and if possible, the social security number.

For UOCAVA voters, often the Internet is their best source of information. It is available to them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If your office maintains a web site, it is recommended that you create a special resource area devoted to these voters. Consider including the following types of information on your web site:

- Provide a link to the Federal Voting Assistance Program website – www.fvap.gov
- Display information on state-specific rules and regulations for UOCAVA voters. Be sure to include a link to the FPCA online version – www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpc.html
- Post a direct email link and/or toll-free phone number to encourage UOCAVA voters to contact your office with any questions. Be sure that your staff is trained to monitor any respond promptly to any email inquiries.
- Provide an online voter status search tool for UOCAVA voters, allowing them to verify their voter eligibility status. Include a link to the online FPCA form to assist them in registering to vote and requesting their absentee ballot.

NOTE: The United States Postal Service will soon be introducing a new tag that can be placed on outgoing trays, bundled mail, pallets, etc. to specifically identify and differentiate domestic and overseas absentee ballots from political mailings. Check the USPS web site for details at www.usps.com/electionmail

Because transmitting voting material through the mail may delay receipt and return, there are currently three alternative transmission methods allowed by various states:

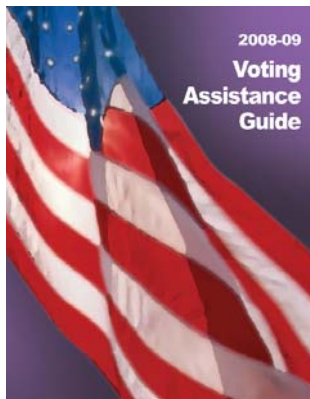
- Send the FPCA or registration and ballot request by fax
- Receive the blank ballot by fax
- Return the voted ballot by fax

- Email may be allowed, depending upon your state

NOTE: Be sure that voter always mails the original FPCA and voted ballot after faxing.

Resources for Local Election Officials

The *Voting Assistance Guide* is the official and primary source of UOCAVA absentee voting information. The Guide provides information about FVAP products and services and includes State instructions and guidelines. It is available on line at www.fvap.gov. The *Guide* helps local election officials understand the information provided to military voters.



The FVAP's ombudsman service is available toll-free at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683), by email at vote@fvap.ncr.gov, or by fax at (703) 588-0108. This service is very useful for locating military voters when the address that you have on file is no longer valid. It is also available to you for ordering additional FPCA forms or to answer basic questions about overseas voters.

The Department of Defense's Voting Information Center (VIC) is an automated telephone system that contains election information. It allows citizens to connect directly to the offices of their federal election officials and their governors, candidates for those offices, and the state Chief Election Official. You can reach the VIC toll-free at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683) or (703) 588-1343. Remember to ask your candidates and office holders to record their messages and submit them to this system.

The Voting Information News (VIN) is a monthly newsletter published by FVAP that contains timely information on elections. All local and state election officials should subscribe to this by sending an email to vote@fvap.ncr.gov.

Local election officials should log onto the FVAP's "local election official website section" at www.fvap.gov/leo/leo.html. At this site you will have access to useful information on providing services to UOCAVA voters.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) operates within the Department of Defense. The following is contact information for the FVAP:

Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Washington Headquarters Services

1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155
1-800-438-8683 (Toll free)
703-588-1584
703-696-1352 (Fax)
703-588-1343 (Voting Information Center)
www.fvap.gov
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Review the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Best Practices on Military and Overseas Voters, which is available online at www.eac.gov.

The next pages contain the following:

- sample Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)
- sample Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)
- sample ballot transmission envelope
- sample ballot return envelope (back and front)
- sample local election official acknowledgement card
- "Nonprofit Standard Mail & Other Unique Eligibility: Absentee Balloting Materials"
- FVAP's Envelope Design Guidelines

FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 42 USC 1973ff, "Title 1 - Registration and Voting By Absent Uniformed Services Voters and Overseas Voters in Elections for Federal Office."

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: Serves as a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot for general elections or other elections provided by law or special provisions for all persons covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*.

DISCLOSURE: Voluntary; however failure to furnish requested personal information may result in the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot not being recognized and therefore not counted.

Please read instructions before completion. If you have any questions, consult your Unit Voting Assistance Officer or Embassy/Consulate Voting Assistance Officer, the *Voting Assistance Guide*, or <http://www.fvap.gov>. Type or print legibly.

1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION:

Block 1b. Some states may accept the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation as a registration form if you have not registered previously in that jurisdiction. See the *Voting Assistance Guide*. For those states that do not accept the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation as a request form and you have not previously submitted a Federal Post Card Application, your ballot may not be counted.

Block 2. MY INFORMATION. Block 2d. RACE. This information is requested from some states for statistical purposes by the Department of Justice in its enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and the National Voter Registration Act.

Block 3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS. Enter the complete legal voting residence address where you ACTUALLY LIVED in the state or territory. Your right to vote in your state and determination of your voting precinct depend on the physical location of your residence while you were in the state. DO NOT USE A POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER. In an area with no street names, indicate route name and number and box number. Also provide any additional information necessary to physically describe your residence location. This voting residence address must be the same as the voting residence on the application for your regular absentee ballot previously submitted.

Block 4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS.

Block 4a. Enter the complete mailing address where you are now living. **Block 4b.** If you have an alternate address or an address of a mail forwarding service that delivers your mail more quickly, enter that address here.

Block 5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE.

This is an optional entry, however, this information is required by most states in order to vote in primary elections. Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* for any specific state information required.

Block 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. Provide any information that may assist the local election official in accepting this ballot.

Block 7. AFFIRMATION. Ensure that you read the oath, sign, and enter the date you completed the form in the spaces provided. Not all states require a witness or notary, and state laws vary regarding the voting of convicted felons. Consult your state section of the *Voting Assistance Guide* or your Voting Assistance Officer for your state's requirements.

2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT:

a. For each office for which you vote, write in either a candidate's name or political party designation. If your state permits, you may vote for other offices in the spaces provided under the "ADDENDUM" section.

b. Once the ballot is complete, fold and place it in a blank envelope and seal - this will be the security envelope for the ballot. **PLACE ONLY THE VOTED BALLOT IN THE SECURITY ENVELOPE AND DO NOT WRITE ON THE SECURITY ENVELOPE.**

c. Insert the sealed Security Envelope and the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation into another envelope and seal.

d. If mailed in U.S. Mail, APO/FPO or Diplomatic Pouch, affix proper postage. If mailed in a foreign postal system, international airmail postage must be affixed. In the return address section in the upper left hand corner of the mailing envelope, enter your name and current complete military or overseas mailing address. In the "TO" section in the center of the mailing envelope, enter the name and mailing address of your city, township, village, county or state election official. Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* for correct address. This must be the same election official where you sent your application for an absentee ballot.

e. Some states allow the electronic transmission of FWABs. Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* for your state or territory's procedures. Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for specific state and territorial procedures.

VOTER'S DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION - FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT (FWAB)**1.a. I AM (Mark only one):**

- ☐ A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT
- ☐ A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY
- ☐ A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY

1.b. I ALSO REQUEST VOTER REGISTRATION (where permitted by state law) ☐**2. MY INFORMATION (Required)**

a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle)

SUFFIX (Jr.,
Sr., III, etc.)

b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable)

c. SEX

☐

M

☐

F

d. RACE

e. DATE OF BIRTH
(MMDDYYYY)

f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

g. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER

h. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)

i. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)

j. EMAIL ADDRESS

3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Required) (Military, use legal residence. Overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.)

a. NUMBER AND STREET (Cannot be a P.O. Box.)

b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE

c. COUNTY

d. STATE

e. ZIP CODE

4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS

a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Where I live now) (Required)

b. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS (NOTE: Complete 4b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4a.)

5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections):**6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive future ballots. See instructions. Consult your state pages of the Voting Assistance Guide for additional information requested.)****7. AFFIRMATION: (Required)**

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and
2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and
3. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and
4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and
5. My application for a regular absentee ballot was mailed in time to be received by the local election official 30 days prior to this election, or the state deadline, whichever is later, and
6. I have not received the requested ballot, and
7. I understand that if my regular absentee ballot is received by the local election official in time to be counted, that ballot will be counted and this write-in ballot will be voided, and
8. I have voted and sealed this ballot in private and have not allowed any person to observe the marking of this ballot, except for those authorized to assist voters under state or Federal law and I have not been influenced, and
9. I am a Uniformed Services member, or dependent, who is absent from my voting jurisdiction, or I am an overseas citizen and have submitted this ballot from outside the U.S., or my state has made special provisions to allow me to mail this ballot inside the U.S., and
10. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and
11. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

(MMDDYYYY)

Witness/Notary and Address (if required)

(MMDDYYYY)

OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

U.S. SENATOR*

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE/DELEGATE**/RESIDENT COMMISSIONER**

* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.

** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

ADDENDUM

Some states allow the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult your state section in the *Voting Assistance Guide* to determine your state's policy. *If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices/candidates other than those listed above*, please indicate in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.), and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.

OFFICE

CANDIDATE NAME or PARTY AFFILIATIONThis image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

OFFICIAL FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT *(continuation)*[illegible]

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

BEFORE YOU SEAL THE MAILING ENVELOPE, CHECK THAT YOU HAVE DONE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Complete the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation.
2. Sign and date the Voter's Declaration/Affirmation and put inside the mailing envelope.
3. Vote your Ballot.
4. Put your voted Ballot in the Security Envelope and seal.
5. Put the sealed Security Envelope in the mailing envelope.
6. Seal the mailing envelope.
7. Put your name and current complete military or overseas mailing address in the upper left hand corner of the envelope.
8. Put address of proper election official in the middle of the envelope. This address must be the same local election official address where you previously submitted your regular absentee ballot application.
9. Affix proper postage.

NOW YOU ARE READY TO MAIL THIS ENVELOPE!

(After completion, fold to inside and seal before mailing.)

WARNING: Knowingly presenting false information in this application could result in criminal sanctions.

Standard Form 76A (Rev. 10-2005)

REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)

1. I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND I AM (Mark only one):

- ☐ (a) A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT
- ☐ (b) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY
- ☐ (c) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY

2. MY INFORMATION (Required)

a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle)				SUFFIX (Jr., Sr., III, etc.)	b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable)
c. SEX <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	d. RACE	e. DATE OF BIRTH (MMDDYYYY)	f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER — —	g. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER	
h. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)			i. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)		
j. EMAIL ADDRESS					

3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Required) (Military, use legal residence. Overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.)

a. NUMBER AND STREET (Cannot be a P.O. Box)				
b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE		c. COUNTY	d. STATE	e. ZIP CODE —

4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS

a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Where I live now) (Required)	b. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS (NOTE: Complete 4b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4a.)

c. I PREFER TO RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT, AS PERMITTED BY MY STATE, BY: ☐ MAIL ☐ FAX ☐ EMAIL

5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections):

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive ballots - see instructions for Block 6, paragraph (3). Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for other specific state instructions.)

7. AFFIRMATION (Required)

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and
2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and
3. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and
4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and
5. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and
6. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ (MMDDYYYY) Signed: _____ Date: _____ (MMDDYYYY)
(Witness/Notary and Address (if required))

The information contained here in is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.


Adobe Professional 7.0

MAX
Height 6 1/8 inches
Length 11 1/2 inches

MIN
Height 3 1/2 inches
Length 5 1/2 inches
Use Black Ink

BALLOT TRANSMISSION ENVELOPE
(SAMPLE)

Name and complete address



PAR AVION

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL-DMM 703.8.0

T0:

MAX
Height 6 1/8 inches
Length 11 1/2 inches

MIN
Height 3 1/2 inches
Length 5 1/2 inches
Use Black Ink

BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE - BACK (Sample)

For States Requiring the Oath be Witness or Notarized

Standard Oath

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I am:

1. A member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty; or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member; or,
A U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S.; or,
Other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.; and
2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the date of the election), and I am eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction; and
3. I have not been convicted of a felony, or other disqualifying offense, or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or, if so, my voting rights have been reinstated; and
4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., except the jurisdiction cited in this voting form.

In voting, I have marked and sealed my ballot in private and have not allowed any person to observe the marking of the ballot, except for those authorized to assist voters under state or Federal law. I have not been influenced.

My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document.

The information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Month/Day/Year

Witness(es) or Notary signature and date:

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Month/Day/Year

MAX
Height 6 1/8 inches
Length 11 1/2 inches

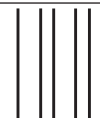
MIN
Height 3 1/2 inches
Length 5 1/2 inches
Use Black Ink

BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE

(Sample)

If mailed in non U.S. Postal System - Voter must pay postage

Name and complete address



U.S. Postage Paid
39 USC 3406

PAR AVION

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST-CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL-DMM 703.8.0

**SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND
MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTIONS BOARD
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT HOUSE
1234 MAIN STREET
ANYWHERE, MD 00000-0000**

**YOUR FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION FOR VOTER
REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST HAS BEEN
RECEIVED AND PROCESSED**

	You will be sent an absentee ballot for Primary - General - Special - Run-off - Other election(s) approximately (date)	
	Your application is incomplete or illegible.	
	Block(s) is(are) incomplete or illegible.	
	Please provide:	
	Please resubmit a completely new application.	
	Comments:	
	Email information to:	
	Fax information to:	
	Mail information to return address on reverse side of this post card.	
Signature	Title/Jurisdiction	Date

Note to election official: This is a return post card for your use. Please mark and fill in applicable items. Write your return address and send to the citizen.

**YOUR FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION FOR VOTER
REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST HAS BEEN
RECEIVED AND PROCESSED**

	You will be sent an absentee ballot for Primary - General - Special - Run-off - Other election(s) approximately (date)	
	Your application is incomplete or illegible.	
	Block(s) is(are) incomplete or illegible.	
	Please provide:	
	Please resubmit a completely new application.	
	Comments:	
	Email information to:	
	Fax information to:	
	Mail information to return address on reverse side of this post card.	
Signature	Title/Jurisdiction	Date

Note to election official: This is a return post card for your use. Please mark and fill in applicable items. Write your return address and send to the citizen.

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	You will be sent an absentee ballot for Primary - General - Special - Run-off - Other election(s) approximately (date)	
	Your application is incomplete or illegible.	
	Block(s) is(are) incomplete or illegible.	
	Please provide:	
	Please resubmit a completely new application.	
	Comments:	
	Email information to:	
	Fax information to:	
	Mail information to return address on reverse side of this post card.	
Signature	Title/Jurisdiction	Date

Note to election official: This is a return post card for your use. Please mark and fill in applicable items. Write your return address and send to the citizen.

**YOUR FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION FOR VOTER
REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST HAS BEEN
RECEIVED AND PROCESSED**

	You will be sent an absentee ballot for Primary - General - Special - Run-off - Other election(s) approximately (date)	
	Your application is incomplete or illegible.	
	Block(s) is(are) incomplete or illegible.	
	Please provide:	
	Please resubmit a completely new application.	
	Comments:	
	Email information to:	
	Fax information to:	
	Mail information to return address on reverse side of this post card.	
Signature	Title/Jurisdiction	Date

Note to election official: This is a return post card for your use. Please mark and fill in applicable items. Write your return address and send to the citizen.

Election office name and complete address



U.S. Postage Paid
39 USC 3406

PAR AVION



OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL – FIRST CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL – DMM 703.8.0

Applicant name and complete address

TO:

Election office name and complete address



U.S. Postage Paid
39 USC 3406

PAR AVION



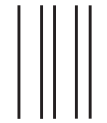
OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL – FIRST CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL – DMM 703.8.0

Applicant name and complete address

TO:

Election office name and complete address



U.S. Postage Paid
39 USC 3406

PAR AVION



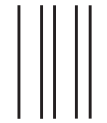
OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL – FIRST CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL – DMM 703.8.0

Applicant name and complete address

TO:

Election office name and complete address



U.S. Postage Paid
39 USC 3406

PAR AVION



OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL – FIRST CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL – DMM 703.8.0

Applicant name and complete address

TO:

8.0 Absentee Balloting Materials

8.1 Basic Standards

8.1.1 Definition

Balloting materials, consisting of postcard applications, ballots, voting instructions, and envelopes, may be sent through the mail without prepayment of postage to enable persons in the following categories to apply for registration and vote by absentee ballot when absent from the place of voting residence and otherwise eligible to vote as an absentee:

- a. Members of the Armed Forces in active service and their spouses and dependents.
- b. Members of the U.S. Merchant Marine and their spouses and dependents.
- c. U.S. citizens residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia and their spouses and dependents residing with or accompanying them. [E080.1.1]

8.1.2 Eligibility

To be mailable without prepayment of postage, the balloting materials must be deposited at a U.S. post office, an overseas U.S. military post office, or an American Embassy or American Consulate. [E080.1.2]

8.1.3 Between Officials

Balloting materials may be mailed between state and local election officials, individually or in bulk, without prepayment of postage. Packages of materials mailed in bulk must bear an address label as described in 8.2. [E080.1.3]

8.1.4 Elections Affected

Materials may be for any general election of electors for President and Vice President; or of senators and representatives in Congress, and other general, primary, and special elections. [E080.1.4]

8.2 Marking

8.2.1 Envelope

The envelope used to send balloting material and the envelope supplied for return of the ballots must have printed across the face the words "Official Absentee Balloting Material—First-Class Mail" (or similar language required by state law) in a rectangular box. Immediately below, the words "No Postage Necessary in the U.S. Mail—DMM 703.8.0" must be printed. Envelopes previously approved with the citation "DMM E080" must not be rejected. In the upper right corner of the envelope, in a rectangular box, the words "U.S. Postage Paid, 39 USC 3406" must be printed. An appropriate inscription or blank spaces for the return address of the sender must be shown in the upper left corner (see Exhibit 8.2.1). [E080.2.1]

Exhibit 8.2.1 Balloting Material Formats—Envelope

Name and Complete Address

U.S. Postage Paid
39 USC 3406

PAR AVION

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST-CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL - DMM 703.8.0

SECRETARY OF STATE OF WASHINGTON
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ELECTIONS BOARD
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
1234 MAIN ST
ANYTOWN WA 98765-4321

[Exhibit E080.2.1]

8.2.2 Postcard

The federal voting registration postcard application must be approximately 5 by 8 inches. The design shown in Exhibit 8.2.2 must be printed on the address side of the card. [E080.2.2]

Exhibit 8.2.2 Balloting Material Formats—Postcard

Name and Complete Address

U.S. Postage Paid
39 USC 3406

PAR AVION

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST-CLASS MAIL

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL - DMM 703.8.0

TO:

5"

8"

[Exhibit E080.2.1]

8.2.3 FIM (Facing Identification Mark)

The correct facing identification mark (FIM) as described in 507.8.8.8 must be printed on the address side of envelopes and cards. [E080.2.3]



FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

ENVELOPE DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) administers the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*, which covers the voting rights of all members of the Uniformed Services, the merchant marine and their family members, and all U.S. citizens who reside outside the United States.

The most common barrier that Uniformed Service members and overseas citizens encounter when voting absentee is insufficient ballot transit time. Many of these citizens are located in remote areas around the world where regular mail delivery is unpredictable or difficult to obtain.

The FVAP works with the United States Postal Service (USPS) on a continuing basis to determine the most effective way to timely deliver voting materials to our citizens worldwide. The USPS suggests the following guidelines to expedite mail through the automatic mail processing system. Please disseminate this information to the local election officials in your state.

- Use **black** ink on **white** paper.
- Place the Facing Identification Marks (FIM), at the top and near the right hand corner of the mail piece. Generally, FIM C is used for business reply mail with a preprinted barcode, FIM B is used without a preprinted barcode. Consult with a mail piece design analyst for assistance if needed.
- Place the U.S. Postage Paid 39 USC 3406 in the upper right hand corner with the words PAR AVION printed below.
- The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act is now reflected under section 703.8.0 of the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) and should read:

“Official Absentee Balloting Material – First Class Mail
No Postage Necessary In The U.S. Mails-DMM 703.8.0”

- The new Official Election Mail logo can also be used on the envelope to quickly and easily identify voting-related mail. The logo cannot be resized or altered. However, FVAP has been advised by the USPS that the small application originally slated to be used on postcards only can be used on any size ballot transmission and return voting materials.

Your current supplies of voting materials may still be used. We suggest that upon depletion of your current stock of voting materials, the above recommendations be considered when designing new materials for printing in order to expedite mail processing. Consult with a mail piece design analyst at the USPS to assist with the design of your new mail piece.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the FVAP at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683).